



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Commission on Children



Substitute House Bill No. 5181

Public Act No. 99-227

An Act Concerning A State-Wide Early Reading Success Institute

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) The Department of Education shall convene an Early Reading Success Panel composed of elementary school teachers, school administrators, national experts in the field of reading research and early childhood and higher education experts knowledgeable in the field of reading research. The panel shall review research on how reading is learned and on the knowledge and skills necessary for teachers to deliver effective reading instruction by July 1, 2000.

Sec. 2. (NEW) Each local or regional board of education for a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p of the general statutes, shall conduct an assessment of its institutional and teacher need related to the attainment of the goal of reading success for children in its schools. The assessment shall include need in the areas of teacher training, assessment tools, curriculum, library books and other forms of technical assistance. The local or regional board of education shall report on the results of such assessment to the Department of Education, in such form as the Commissioner of Education prescribes, by July 1, 2000.

Sec. 3. (NEW) The Department of Education shall develop, within available appropriations, a State-Wide Early Reading Success Institute for educators based on the review completed by the Early Reading Success Panel pursuant to section 1 of this act and the assessments conducted pursuant to section 2 of this act. The institute shall commence operation in the 2000-2001 school year.

Sec. 4. (NEW) On or before July 1, 2001, each local or regional board of education for a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p of the general statutes, shall develop and implement a three-year in-service reading instruction training plan for the professional development of the district's school librarians, elementary school principals and not less than seventy percent of its teachers in grades kindergarten to three, inclusive, provided spaces are available at the state-wide Early Reading Success Institute for such training. The plan shall be consistent with the model for instruction developed by the State-Wide Early Reading Success Institute pursuant to section 3 of

this act. The local or regional board of education may use funds received by the school district pursuant to section 10-265f of the general statutes, for teacher training based on the plan.

Sec. 5. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-265f of the general statutes, one hundred thousand dollars of the amount appropriated to the Department of Education in special act 99-10 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, shall be used by the department for the State-Wide Early Reading Success Institute pursuant to section 3 of this act.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-265f of the general statutes, one million five hundred thousand dollars of the amount appropriated to the Department of Education in said bill for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, shall be used by the department for such institute.

Sec. 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

Approved June 29, 1999

Co-sponsors of HB-5181

REP. DENISE W MERRILL, 54th Dist.

REP. ART FELTMAN, 6th Dist.

REP. CHRISTOPHER STONE, 9th Dist.

REP. ELIZABETH A BOUKUS, 22nd Dist.

REP. WALTER PAWELKIEWICZ, 49th Dist.

REP. KOSTA D DIAMANTIS, 79th Dist.

REP. ERNEST E NEWTON, 124th Dist.

REP. LEE A SAMOWITZ, 129th Dist.

REP. ALEX KNOPP, 137th Dist.

REP. CRISTEL H TRUGLIA, 145th Dist.

REP. MOIRA K LYONS, 146th Dist.

REP. ALFRED ADINOLFI, 103rd Dist.

REP. EDNA I GARCIA, 128th Dist.

SEN. MARY HANDLEY, 4th Dist.

SEN. THOMAS A BOZEK, 6th Dist.

REP. THEODORE RACZKA, 100th Dist.

SEN. JUDITH G FREEDMAN, 26th Dist.

SEN. JOHN MCKINNEY, 28th Dist.

SEN. JOHN A KISSEL, 7th Dist.

REP. MINNIE GONZALEZ, 3rd Dist.

REP. MELODY A CURREY, 10th Dist.

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REP. ANTHONY J TERCYAK, 26th Dist.

REP. THOMASINA CLEMONS, 56th Dist.

REP. ROBERT T KEELEY, 125th Dist.

REP. HECTOR A DIAZ, 130th Dist.
REP. JOSEPH D CLEMMONS, 140th Dist.
SEN. THOMAS HERLIHY, 8th Dist.
REP. ANTONIETTA BOUCHER, 143rd Dist.
REP. NANCY E KERENSKY, 14th Dist.
SEN. DAVID CAPPIELLO, 24th Dist.